

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR BAIRD

• Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to Victor Baird, who is retiring from his position as Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics after more than 15 years of service.

Victor has done a good job under difficult circumstances. I have been a member of the Committee for a couple of years, but in that short time, Victor has handled several high profile and sensitive situations very well. He certainly has been an asset in helping the committee preserve the integrity of the U.S. Senate. Often in this type of job, you end up making no one happy. Victor handled this thankless task with an even demeanor.

Vitor has spent much of his life in public service—in the military, for the state of Georgia and in the U.S. Senate—and he has done it well. I wish him the best in his new endeavors. •

TRIBUTE TO THE MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the Morehead State University Varsity Cheerleaders. The squad was named the national champions in the Universal Cheerleaders Association-sponsored competition earlier this year.

The Morehead State University coed varsity cheerleading squad was awarded their 13th national title in Division I. Along with winning the overall title, Morehead State University won the all-girl partner stunt competition and received second place in the all-girl squad.

The citizens of Morehead, KY should be proud to have Morehead State University cheerleading champs living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I would like to congratulate the members of the varsity squad for their success. But also, I want to congratulate their coach, Myron Doan, along with their peers, faculty, administrators, and parents for their support and sacrifices they have made to help meet those achievements and dreams. •

TRIBUTE TO WALTER CLORE

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, in February my State lost one of its great citizens and the father of the Washington State wine industry, Walter Clore.

My colleagues in the Senate may not know a fact that many wine drinkers around the globe have learned the last few years: Washington state produces some of the highest quality wine in the world. In 2001, Wine Enthusiast Magazine named Washington state as "Wine Region of the Year" in recognition of its fast emergence as a global leader in producing quality wines.

I am very pleased that Walter Clore lived to see this honor—and so many other honors—bestowed on Washington wine. These honors reflect just how far the Washington wine industry has come. They are also an outstanding tribute to the legacy of Walter Clore and his vision, hard work, and dedication.

I had the great privilege to meet Walter Clore in August 2002. That month, I spent two days traveling through Washington wine country—from Yakima to Prosser to the Tri-Cities to Walla Walla. I toured wineries and vineyards and visited with wine grape growers, vintners, and researchers.

Walter Clore was himself a researcher. He spent 40 years at the Washington State University Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser, Washington, an institution that has helped lead Washington agriculture forward in so many ways. During his career, Walter developed and tested wine grape varieties throughout Washington State.

Walter Clore retired in 1976, but he was not content to relax and watch from the sidelines. Using his 40 years of experience and knowledge, he connected emerging vintners with promising varieties and pointed them to ideal sites for growing wine grapes.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Walter Clore. But I take solace in the fact that he pursued his passion with unrelenting determination and transformed his vision of a vibrant Washington wine industry into a reality. We need more pioneers like Walter Clore.

Today, Washington state's \$2.4 billion wine industry is the Nation's second largest producer of premium wines. The industry boasts more than 200 wineries and 300 wine grape growers. More important to consumers than the size of the industry, my State continues to earn respect for its quality, affordable wines.

I believe the best way to pay tribute to Walter Clore is to continue his legacy. As a U.S. Senator, that means funding research through USDA and institutions like Washington State University to keep the industry healthy and on the cutting edge. It means investing in trade promotion initiatives like the Market Access Program so that Washington wine can earn the markets and worldwide recognition it deserves. And it means creating opportunities for Washington wine country to become a destination spot for wine lovers who live in the Pacific Northwest and around the Nation.

As Washingtonians, we are so proud to call Walter Clore our own. On behalf of the Washington wine industry, I want to express my condolences to Walter's family. I also want to let them know that we will continue to build on his great legacy.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article from Wine Press Northwest about Walter Clore be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wine Press Northwest, Feb. 3, 2003]

WALTER CLORE, "FATHER OF WASHINGTON WINE," DIES

YAKIMA, Wash.—Dr. Walter Clore, the man known as the "Father of Washington Wine," passed away this morning. He was 91.

Clore, who in 1972 predicted wine consumption would triple in the U.S. by 1999, died in a Yakima-area convalescent home. Considered the father of Washington wines, Clore came up with the idea of growing wine grapes in the Columbia Valley after arriving in Prosser soon after Prohibition was repealed.

Clore retired from the Washington State University Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Station in 1976, four years after he commented on the future of wine in this country at a chamber of commerce meeting. His involvement remained strong well into retirement. Last summer, he visited with U.S. Sen. PATTY MURRAY when she toured the region's wine country.

Clore literally helped write the book on the Washington wine industry. In fact, *The Wine Project*, co-authored by Ron Irvine, serves as a biography of sorts for the man some view as the Johnny Appleseed of vinifera grapes in the state.

He spent 40 years at the Prosser Experiment Station. During his tenure, Clore, more than any other individual, is responsible for convincing Eastern Washington farmers they could grow world-class wine grapes.

Clore was born July 1, 1911, and grew up in Oklahoma during Prohibition and was raised a teetotaling Methodist. He came to Washington State College in 1934 on a \$500 fellowship. In 1937, Clore was appointed assistant horticulturist. He was the third faculty member on staff at the center and began working with tree fruits and small fruits—including grapes.

One of Clore's primary contributions to the industry was figuring out where premium wine grapes could be grown in the state. He grew vinifera varieties throughout the state and collected volumes of data on how they fared. He retired in 1976.

Soon after, the Washington wine industry began to grow in earnest and Clore began consulting. Stimson Lane Vineyards and Estates, which owns Columbia Crest and Chateau Ste. Michelle, sought Clore's advice. He pointed them to several sites that have turned out to be among best in the state, including Horse Heaven Hills and Cold Creek.

"The industry got a running start because he planted scores of varieties throughout the Columbia Valley and collected the data necessary for vintners to make reasonable decisions about where to site a vineyard or winery," said Ted Baseler, president of Stimson Lane. "Prior to that, many people decided it was a foregone conclusion that premium wine grapes could not be grown in Washington."

Last fall, Columbia Crest honored Clore by naming its Bordeaux-style red blend the Walter Clore Private Reserve. It's an honor Clore, 91, appreciated on a couple of levels.

"I read in a recent *Wine Spectator* that Opus One earned a 93 point rating (out of 100) and was priced at \$150," Clore said during an Oct. 16 ceremony at the Paterson, Wash., winery. "I also read that the Columbia Crest Walter Clore Reserve received a 92 rating and was priced at \$30."

Several of those grape growers, along with Clore's friends and company officials, came out to help Columbia Crest and Clore toast the 1999 vintage. Special guests included